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RUEHEE/ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
RHWSMRC/USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL//CCPA// IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 KUWAIT 000638

SIPDIS

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STATE FOR NEA/ARPI, NEA/PA, NEA/AIA, NEA/PI, INR/NESA, R/MR, I/GNEA,
B/BXN, B/BRN, NEA/PPD, NEA/IPA FOR ALTERMAN
USAID/ANE/MEA
LONDON FOR TSOU
PARIS FOR ZEYA

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: KUWAITI YOUTH SURVEYS ON EDUCATION, DEMOCRACY AND POLITICS
CONDUCTED BY AL-QABAS DAILY ARABIC NEWSPAPER

11. Summary: Al-Qabas, the most prominent Arabic-language daily newspaper in Kuwait, regularly prints polling results reflecting youth opinions on a variety of topics, including early marriage, the Iranian nuclear program, the Danish cartoons, and political awareness. Recent polling exhibited strong responses in support of democracy, educational reform, the new government in Kuwait and the boycott of Danish goods. End Summary.

12. Academic competence at Kuwait University:

-- Tuesday, 21 February 2006

The percentage of students earning each grade at Kuwait University's School of Social Sciences:

A, A-	18.5%
B+, B, B-	31%
C+, C, C-	24.5%
D+, D	21%
FA, F	5%

The percentage of students earning each grade at Kuwait University's School of Humanities:

A, A-	19%
B+, B, B-	29%
C+, C, C-	28%
D+, D	17.5%
FA, F	6%

The percentage of students earning each grade at Kuwait University's School of Engineering and Petroleum:

A, A-	8.5%
B+, B, B-	16%
C+, C, C-	23.5%
D+, D	24.5%
FA, F	27.5%

The percentage of students earning each grade at Kuwait University's School of Science:

A, A-	13%
B+, B, B-	21%
C+, C, C-	30%
D+, D	16%
FA, F	20%

-- Sunday, 8 January 2006

Does the professor use technology during lectures?

66% No, 30% Sometimes, 4% Yes

What is your evaluation of the professors' lecturing abilities?
24% Good, 76% Weak

Do you use other means of learning aside from the professors?
85% yes, 10% No, and 5% Sometimes

13. Democracy, Government, and Civil Society

-- Tuesday, 21 February 2006

Do you think Kuwait is a democratic country?
90% Yes, 9% Somewhat, 1% No

Do you believe in democracy?
78% yes, 17% somewhat, 5% no

Do you follow politics?
32% yes, 61% somewhat, 7% no

-- Monday, 20 February 2006

Are you satisfied with the new government?
96% yes, 3% somewhat, 1% no

Do you think the new government will meet your aspirations?
94% yes, 5% somewhat, 1% no

Do you expect the new government to carry out reform?
94% yes, 4% somewhat, 2% no

-- Monday, 6 February 2006

Who is responsible for informing the youth about politics?

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43% Ministry of Information, 34% Ministry of Education, 12% Other youth, 7% Don't know, 4% Parents

Freedoms afforded by the Kuwaiti constitution:
60% Limited, 35% Widespread, 3% Narrow, 2% Don't know

Do you know the date of Kuwait's independence?
73% Yes, 23% No, 4% Somewhat

Do you understand the constitution's terminology?
59% Yes, 36% Somewhat, 5% No

-- Monday, 30 January 2006

Do you think that the current number of declared syndicates is sufficient?
65% Not sufficient, 15% Sufficient, 20% Don't know

Is declaration in the interest of the members?
75% Yes, 12% No, 13% Don't know

Is declaration in the interest of political parties only?
35% Don't know, 35% No, 30% Yes

Will declaration increase syndicates' activities?
68% Yes, 20% Don't know, 12% No

14. Iran's Nuclear Program

-- Sunday, 19 February 2006

Do you fear an accident at the Iranian nuclear reactor that would endanger the people of the region?
60% yes, 30% somewhat, and 10% no

Are you afraid of the geographical proximity of the Iranian nuclear reactor to Kuwait?
56% yes, 30% somewhat, 14% no

15. Early Marriage

-- Monday, 13 February 2006

Is early marriage a good thing or a bad thing?
65% Bad, 35% Good

Does early marriage end in divorce in most cases?
50% Yes, 50% No

Do you support early marriage?
75% No, 25% Yes

16. Blasphemous Danish Cartoons

-- Tuesday, 7 February 2006

Do you support the boycott?
90% Yes, 10% No

Have you seen the cartoons?
65% Yes, 35% No

On what basis are you boycotting Danish products?
80% Media, 20% Clerics' Fatwas

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<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/nea/kuwait/>

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LEBARON